

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Watanabe in view of the patents to Albright and Torok.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Watanabe, Albright and Torok in view of the patent to Takano.

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Watabe and Albright and Torok in view of the patent to Oda.

Claims 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Watabe and Albright and Torok in view of the patent to Fakult.

Also, claims 7 and 8 are objected to, and claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112.

At the same time, the Examiner indicated that claims 24 and 25 are not rejected over the art and would be allowable if rewritten in

independent form.

In view of the Examiner's formal objections and rejections over the claims, applicants have cancelled claim 20 and amended claim 7 to depend on claim 1, so that claims 7 and claim 8 depend directly or indirectly on claim 1. It is therefore believed that the Examiner's grounds for the formal objections and rejections are eliminated.

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of some claims has been gratefully acknowledged. In connection with this indication, claim 24 has been cancelled and its features have been introduced into claim 1, the broadest claim on file. The thusly amended claim 1 should be considered as being in allowable condition.

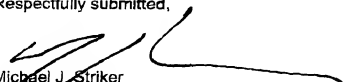
Allowable claim 25 has been amended to depend on claim 1 and it is also in allowable condition.

The dependent claims have been retained with their dependency from claim 1. Since they share the allowable features of claim 1, it is believed that they should be considered as allowable as well.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



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